

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION
Olympia, Washington**

To: Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners
Emergency Physicians
EPSDT Clinics
Physicians
Physician Clinics
Federally Qualified Health Centers
Health Departments
Managed Care Carriers

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For Information Contact:
1-800-562-6188

From: Douglas Porter, Assistant Secretary
Medical Assistance Administration (MAA)

Subject: Physician-Related Services: Coverage and Rate Updates for Influenza Virus Vaccines

Retroactive to dates of service on and after October 1, 2004 through March 31, 2005, the Medical Assistance Administration (MAA) has updated the coverage indications and maximum allowable fees for influenza virus vaccines as detailed in this memorandum.

Payment for Purchased Vaccines

Under normal circumstances, flu vaccines for clients 18 years of age and younger are available free of charge from the Department of Health (DOH) under the federal Vaccines for Children Program. Due to the impending flu vaccine shortage this year, MAA anticipates a limited supply of free vaccines through local health departments. Therefore, MAA will pay providers directly for flu vaccines administered to eligible clients when all of the following apply:

- The client is 18 years of age or younger;
- The provider made every attempt to obtain the vaccine at no charge from his or her local health department;
- The provider administered the flu vaccine to the client from purchased stock; and
- **The provider uses MAA's Expedited Prior Authorization process, as described below.**

When billing for purchased vaccines for clients 18 years of age and younger, **DO NOT bill using modifier SL** (state-supplied vaccine). Listing modifier SL on the claim results in MAA's claims processing system paying for the administration of the vaccine only. In addition to the vaccine itself, MAA will reimburse providers for administering the purchased vaccine using CPT vaccine administration codes 90471-90472.

Expedited Prior Authorization Requirements

Providers **must** bill MAA for purchased flu vaccines for **clients 18 years and under** (including the live, intranasal flu vaccine discussed below) using MAA's Expedited Prior Authorization (EPA) process. MAA's EPA process allows providers to use a nine-digit prior authorization number to certify that MAA's established criteria have been met. The nine-digit EPA number must be listed in the "Prior Authorization Number" field of the claim form (for example, Box 23 of a CMS-1500 claim form).

Providers may bill MAA for purchased flu vaccines using **EPA number 870000930** when all of the following criteria are met:

- The client is 18 years of age or younger;
- The provider was unable to obtain the flu vaccine free of charge from the local health department; and
- The provider administered the flu vaccine to the client from stock he or she purchased.

Coverage Change

Due to the anticipated flu vaccine shortage, MAA will reimburse providers for the live, intranasal flu vaccine **for this flu season only**, using CPT code 90660. MAA will reimburse providers for the intranasal flu vaccine when all of the following apply:

- The client is 5-49 years of age;
- The client meets one of the following Department of Health (DOH) criteria:
 - ✓ Client is a healthy person who is not pregnant and who is in a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) priority group for vaccination because he or she is a healthcare worker, or is a out-of-home caregiver or household contact of children under six months of age; or
 - ✓ Client is a healthy person who is not pregnant and who is a household contact of persons in a priority group for vaccination because of chronic underlying medical conditions; and
- **The provider uses MAA's Expedited Prior Authorization process, as described above, for clients 5-18 years of age.**



EXCEPTION: Per CDC guidelines, the live, intranasal influenza virus vaccine *should not* be given to healthcare workers who care for severely immunocompromised patients (such as bone marrow transplant patients in special care units), or to persons who are household contacts of persons who are severely immunocompromised.

If providers obtain the live, intranasal flu vaccine free of charge from their local health departments for clients 18 years of age and younger, they must bill MAA for administering the vaccine only using CPT code **90660 with modifier SL**. MAA will reimburse providers for administering the vaccine at \$5.00 each for DOH-supplied vaccines, when modifier SL is billed with the CPT code for that vaccine.

MAA will cover CPT code 90660 from October 1, 2004 through March 31, 2005. **Effective for dates of service on and after April 1, 2005**, MAA will return CPT code 90660 to noncovered status.

Administration of Vaccines

MAA does not reimburse providers for vaccines that are available at no charge from DOH. For clients 18 years of age and younger, MAA **does** reimburse providers for administering the vaccine at \$5.00 each for DOH-supplied vaccines, when modifier SL is billed with the CPT code for that vaccine. **DO NOT bill using the EPA number referenced above for vaccines obtained at no charge from DOH.**

For clients 19 years of age and older, MAA reimburses providers for both the vaccine itself using the CPT code for the vaccine and for administering the vaccine using CPT administration codes 90471-90472. **DO NOT bill the CPT code for the vaccine with modifier SL for these clients. DO NOT bill using the EPA number referenced above for vaccines administered to clients 19 years of age and older.**

For further details regarding immunizations and vaccine administrations, please refer to MAA's current *Physician-Related Services Billing Instructions*, beginning on page C.8.

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Maximum Allowable Fees

The following chart lists MAA's maximum allowable fees for flu vaccines and administration fees for clients 19 years of age and older:

CPT® Procedure Code	Brief Description	October 1, 2004 Maximum Allowable Fee	Notes
90471	Vaccine admin, one vaccine	\$5.00	Limited to 1 unit.
90472	Vaccine admin, each additional	\$3.00	Limited to 1 unit.
90655	Flu vaccine, 6-35 mo, im (preservative-free)	\$12.90*	Per each 0.25 ml
90656	Flu vaccine, 3 yrs, im (preservative-free)	\$12.09*	Per each 0.50 ml
90657	Flu vaccine, 6-35 mo, im	\$4.57*	Per each 0.25 ml
90658	Flu vaccine, 3 yrs, im	\$9.14*	Per each 0.50 ml
90660	Flu vaccine, nasal	\$24.19	Per each dose.

*These vaccines are available at no charge from DOH for clients 18 years of age and younger.

How can I get MAA's provider issuances?

To obtain MAA's provider numbered memoranda and billing instructions, go to MAA's website at <http://maa.dshs.wa.gov> (click on the Billing Instructions/Numbered Memoranda or Provider Publications/Fee Schedules link).

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